



RURAL DISTRICT OF WELWYN

Interim Annual Medical Report for the year 1939

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1. STATISTICS

The rateable value at December 31st, 1939, was £3654
There were 1335 inhabited houses at the end of
1939. Product of a 1d rate £133. 0s. 5d.

The population figure supplied by the Registrar-
General is 4,005.

	1939.
Birth rate per thousand of the population	14.2
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	17.2
x Death-rate per 1,000 of the population	8.39
x This figure is calculated by multiplying the crude death rate by .99	

Death-rate of infants under one year of age

All infants per 1,000 live births	87.7
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Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	72.7
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Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	5.00
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Two deaths occurred of infants under one year of
age of which one may be attributed to prematurity
and one to Influenza with congenital heart disease.

57 live births occurred during the year,

2. INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases were notified during the year:-

Diphtheria.....	52
Scarlet Fever.....	6
Measles.....	Nil
Whooping cough.....	"
Others (pneumonia).....	1
Tuberculosis.....	8

An outbreak of diphtheria started at Sherrards Refugee Home in June and spread to the Oaklands Area. This latter outbreak was traced to two carriers who were removed and treated and the outbreak ceased. This appeared to have nearly abated by the end of the year. There were numerous cases of skin trouble mainly amongst evacuee children and these were treated at the Sick Bay which has been established for the purpose at the Old Hospital, Codicote Road, Welwyn.

Disinfection of premises and, where necessary, steam disinfection of bedding &c., was carried out in connection with the undermentioned cases:-

Diphtheria.....	46
Scabies.....	10
Scarlet Fever.....	6
Puerperal Fever.....	1

3. Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Circumstances remain unchanged since my last report. Sewage Disposal Works at Welwyn and Woolmer Green have continued to function satisfactorily and without nuisance. The average daily flow at Welwyn Sewage Disposal Works throughout the year was 87,970 gallons. The lowest daily flow was 53,000 gallons on 6th September, 1939, following four dry days and the highest daily flow was 233,000 gallons on 15th October, 1939, on which day there was a fall of 1.19 inches of rain.

The need for main sewerage in certain unsewered parts of the district, particularly the Oaklands area, is still unsatisfied and is becoming more pressing.

At Woolmer Green there now remain only two dwellings and one other building not connected with the main drainage where a sewer is available.

4. Housing

(a) New Houses.

13 houses were built during the year, all by private persons.

b. Inspection of dwelling houses under Housing Acts

Number of dwelling houses inspected.....	20
Number of visits for purpose.....	62
Number included above which were recorded under Housing Con.Regulations.....	10
Number of visits for this purpose.....	10
Number of dwellings found to be unfit.....	2
Number found to be not in all respects fit..	11
Number in respect of which undertakings were accepted. Not to use for habitation.....	1
To repair and make fit.....	1
Number in respect of which formal notices to repair were served.....	3
Number repaired following owner's under- taking.....	1
Number repaired after service of notice.....	3
Number repaired voluntarily following informal request (including two started last year).....	4
Number still under consideration.....	6

c. Overcrowding

Number overcrowded at end of the year.....	4
Number of families therein.....	4
Number of persons dwelling therein.....	33
Number of new cases during the year.....	1
Number relieved during the year.....	Nil.

5. Water Supply.

There has been no change in circumstances with regard to water supply during the year except that the consumption during the last quarter of the year was above normal, owing to the influx of population occasioned by the war. During the twelve months October 1938 to September 1939, the average weekly amount taken from Welwyn Garden City Waterworks was 1,165,700 gallons. During the three months ended December 1939 the average weekly amount was 1,223,500 gallons.

Samples of public water supplies have been submitted for bacteriological examination monthly and for chemical examination quarterly. Samples are taken from the various storages in turn. A total of 20 samples of water were collected and reported upon during the year, 18 from public supplies and 2 from suspected private supplies. The reports upon the public supplies were consistently satisfactory, the reports upon the private supplies disclosed a pure supply but unsatisfactory storage arrangements. These defects have now been remedied.

A small extension of approximately 300 yards of 3" main was laid to provide a water supply from Sherrards, now being used as a Home for Refugee boys. Fifteen new supply pipes were laid in connection with new buildings &c.,

b. Closet accommodation,

No alteration in general circumstances.

At Woolmer Green two more premises (1 dwelling and 1 other building) have been connected with the main sewer and as a result 1 E.C. and 2 chemical closets have been replaced by waterclosets.

There are now no dwellings at Woolmer Green where earth closets are in use.

In the parishes of Ayot St. Peter and Ayot St. Lawrence, earth closets remain in general use in cottages.

c. Public cleansing.

Weekly collection has been continued as in previous years.

d. Sanitary inspection for special purposes.

Premises visited.....88

Number of visits to same....144

<u>Nature of inspection or purpose of visit.</u>	<u>Premises.</u>	<u>Visits</u>
Overflowing cesspools.....	11.....	21
Defective earth closets.....	1.....	1
Accumulations of filth.....	1.....	1
Filthy premises.....	2.....	4
Water supply, suspected or inadequate.....	6.....	13
Dampness.....	3.....	4
Overcrowding.....	3.....	3
Suspected food poisoning.....	2.....	3
Nuisance from keeping animals.....	2.....	3
Defective drains.....	1.....	1
Bed bugs.....	1.....	1
Food and Drugs Act.....	9.....	9
Slaughter houses.....	3.....	5
Dairies.....	7.....	7
Infectious Diseases.....	32.....	64
Factory Act.....	3.....	3
Miscellaneous.....	1.....	1
	<u>88</u>	<u>144</u>

Informal requests for action, where necessary, were complied with in all cases except one, when a formal notice under Section 138 of Public Health Act, 1936, to provide proper water supply, was served and complied with.

e. Rainfall

The total rainfall recorded at Welwyn Sewage Disposal Works during the year was 31.90 inches which was 6.228 inches above the average for the previous five years. There was a measurable fall of rain on 191 separate days. The heaviest daily fall being 1.40 inches on 25th January, 1939. The wettest month was October with 4.85 inches of rain and the driest February with 0.56 inches of rain. The average annual rainfall for the preceding five years was 25,672 inches.
